Sector Oil Marketing Companies. Measures to check adulteration are kept under continuous review of the Government.

(vii) Institutional arrangements for replacing AAC are under review in the Ministry.

Availability of natural gas in Tripura

760. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans for extraction and utilization of reserves of natural gas in Tripura;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The gas reserves of Tripura are utilized by way of gas sales to consumers like the North East Electric Power Company (NEEPCO) and Department of Power, Government of Tripura for generating power for domestic and industrial consumer through GAIL. At present, about 1.47 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) of gas has been contracted for by different consumers through GAIL. A further 2 MMSCMD of gas has been allocated to NEEPCO for power generation.

At present, the Tripura Asset of ONGC is at the exploration stage. As and when consumers enter into contracts, the fields will be developed further.

Strike by workers of petroleum companies

761. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and All India Petroleum Workers Federation had gone on strike on the 1st July, 2004 against the decision of Government for privatization of Amguri Oil Field in Assam;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the loss suffered by Government due to this strike; and

(d) what are the other demands of these employees and what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Amguri oil field in Assam was one of the fields offered by the Government of India for development and production of oil and gas under international competitive bidding. A Production Sharing Contract (PSC) was signed by the Government in February 2001 with a consortium comprising Assam Company Ltd. (40%) and Canoro Resources Ltd. (60%), Canada.

ONGC have informed Government that there were reports in the newspapers that the All India Petroleum Workers Federation and the ONGC Workers Associations had called for a 24 hour "ONGC Bandh" on 1.7.2004 in connection with a private Joint Venture having been awarded the contract to develop the Amguri Oil Field in Assam. However no such notice was received by the ONGC management from the ONGC Workers Associations. But a section of employees of ONGC at Nazira, Sibsagar and Jorhat did participate in the illegal bandh call. Nonetheless normal field operations were maintained at the different drilling and production installations by operationalising contingency plans. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and some other oil Public Sector Enterprises have informed Government that their employees did not go on strike on 1.7.2004.

Introduction of CNG in Tamil Nadu

762. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce Compressed Natural Gas in major cities in Tamil Nadu to check pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) For providing Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), availability of natural gas and development of natural gas infrastructure is essential. At present, adequate infrastructure is not available in Tamil Nadu to supply CNG to major cities in the State. This is under discussion with the Oil Marketing Companies and the State authorities concerned.